



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Friday 8th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

What an incredibly busy term we have had since the beginning of January, with much to celebrate. Last week, our amazing XCcountry runners competed in the local Dallam competition. Congratulations to Finn Houston, Charlie Hughes and Oscar Davies, who were placed in the top three for their age-group. In bitterly cold conditions, every runner showed resilience and determination in their own races; whilst cheering on and encouraging their peers on the side-lines. Huge thanks to Mrs Coker and Mrs Mason, our passionate and committed coaches! On Monday, 9 boys compete in the Casterton County Championships – we wish them luck.

Well done also to our gymnasts, who this week took part in the Key Steps 1 competition at Dallam School, led by our expert coach, Mrs Craggs, who has spent many weeks practising every detail of their vaults, body management and floor routines. The team had an opportunity to perform their routines for the rest of the school on Monday of this week. Key Steps 3 (y5+6) achieved bronze; Key Steps 2 (Y3+4) achieved fourth place; and Key Steps 1 (y1+2) gained silver.

Skiddaw are busy rehearsing their dance for the Brewery Dance Platform festival in March on the theme of Pandora's Box. We look forward to seeing their performance in school nearer to the event date.

Staff Updates:

Warmest wishes to our new member of staff, Mr Marcus Dean, who has begun his role as part-time teacher with responsibility for Scafell Class three days a week. Mr Dean is enjoying his role at Levens enormously and we hope that he will choose to stay with us for the foreseeable future.

New Facilities:

Everyone in school is delighted with our new facilities now that the finishing touches have been completed on our external ramp and handrails. We will be having a fair-trade stall and tea shop later this term and look forward to welcoming you to enjoy our facilities with us.

It has been wonderful to regain our space on the playground and the children are enjoying using our new goalposts and netball/basketball hoops.

Attendance:

Good attendance and punctuality throughout the school year is crucial for all our pupils to ensure that they feel settled and happy in school; and to ensure that no learning falls behind. All unnecessary absence should be avoided and medical appointments should be made out of school hours where possible. Our attendance so far this year is low compared to this time last year, with several children's attendance considerably lower than our school target of 98%. Your child's individual attendance data will be shared with you at the forthcoming parent-teacher appointments in March.

Easter holiday Dates:

Please ensure you have noted our Easter holidays and spring/summer term dates accurately. Despite all Cumbrian Schools taking part in a consultation last year regarding Easter fortnight; our Kendal partners have chosen to schedule their holidays differently to schools in the surrounding areas. Details can be found below as well as on our website.



Diary dates:

11.2.19	Casterton County XCountry Championships
13.2.19	Scafell to Edinburgh
15.2.19	Scafell return from Edinburgh
	School Closes at 3pm for half term
25.2.19	School Reopens for second half of spring term
28.2.19	School Disco: Infants 5.45pm-6.45pm & Juniors 7-8pm
1.3.19	Celebration Assembly 2.30pm. All welcome.
6.3.19	Kendal Concert Club for Skiddaw. Details to follow.
	Parent-Teacher appointments 3.15pm-7pm
7.3.19	World Book Day – see details below
8.3.19	Fairtrade Stall and Afternoon Tea 3pm in our dining room. All welcome
13.3.19	Elleray XCountry – Running Club. Details to follow.
20.3.19	Brewery Dance Festival – All Skiddaw pupils performing
29.3.19	School closes for the Easter holidays at 2pm
15.4.19	School reopens for Summer Term 8.45am
19.4.19	School closed for Good Friday
22.4.19	School closed for Easter Monday
25.4.19	Experience Easter am

Date for our Easter Service is still to be confirmed**World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2019:**

We will be enjoying the pleasures of reading with SHARE A STORY on World Book Day... and every day during that week. Spending just 10 minutes a day reading and sharing stories with children can make a crucial difference to their progress and is fun for all involved. You can read together anywhere and everywhere, from breakfast to bedtime - in the park, on the train, on the sofa, on a plane. We'll have lots of 'bookie' activities going on during the week – keep an eye on our blog for a flavour of what we get up to. You will be receiving your £1 book token before half term so you can take it along to your local book shop and exchange it for a book from the 2019 range of 12 new titles. There is something for everyone - spend it between 28th February and 31st March!

A wooden spoon character competition!

Over the next few weeks, we'd like you to be designing and transforming a wooden spoon into a book character! On the day itself, Thursday 7th March, we would love you to bring in your wooden spoon book character and we will display them in our library. Also on the day, please bring in a favourite book that you've enjoyed reading recently, it doesn't have to be linked to your spoon but it can be. You'll have the chance to share it with others in school during our Family Group Reading sessions.

Welcome to Reverend Bryan Kerr:

On behalf of everyone at Levens CE School, may I extend a huge warm welcome to Reverend Bryan Kerr, who joins us from Northern Ireland. Bryan has already been in school to observe collective worship and will be joining Open the Book on Monday of next week. We look forward to working with Bryan in the future and developing our already strong links with St. John's Church. Thanks to Pam Martin, Canon Tom Thompson and everyone involved in OTB for all their support during the interregnum.

With my very best wishes

Jane Farraday

